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Remarks

Claims 6-10 were pending in the subject application and claims 19-29 were withdrawn from further consideration. By way of this Supplemental Amendment, claims 6-8 have been amended, claims 19-32 cancelled, and new claims 33-45 have been added. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment and support for the Amendments and newly presented claims can be found, for example, in Examples 2, 4, 5, and 7, Figures 9-13, and paragraphs 32, 33, 38-43, and 57-66. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 6-10 and 30-45 are currently before the Examiner for consideration and claims 1-5 and 11-32 are cancelled. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the discussions of January 27, 2004 during which the status of the subject application was discussed as was the presentation of additional claims. In view of the remarks and amendments to the claims provided in the response of December 11, 2003 and this date, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants also wish to bring to the attention of the Examiner published U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0014681 A1. The '681 application claims (see claim 1 and 13) substantially the same subject matter as original claims 6-9 of this application and newly presented claims 33-34, 38-40, and 44-45. Should the Patent Office determine that an interference should be declared in this matter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-9, 33-34, 38-40, and 44-45 correspond to proposed counts; however, Applicants note that the filing date of the '681 application is May 14, 2003 (claiming benefit of a provisional application filed May 14, 2002) whereas the filing date of the subject application is November 30, 2001 (claiming benefit of a provisional application filed November 30, 2000). Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 application claims substantially the same invention as that of the instant invention as the term "dermatoses" is used to describe any skin abnormality or appearance of lesions on the skin (see National Library of Medicine definition attached hereto). As provided in the instant application in claims 33-34, Figures 9-13, and Examples 2, 4, and 7, anticonvulsants, such as topiramate have been used to treat individuals with such dermatological injuries or tissue damage.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCE/ssa

Attachment: Amendment Transmittal Letter

Medline Medical Encyclopedia Definition